

IN THE CLAIMS:

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~strikethrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

Please AMEND claims 1, 8, 10, 13, 16, and 27 and CANCEL claims 3-7, 12, 14, 15, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21 and 24-26 in accordance with the following:

1. (Currently Amended) A switch operable under a predetermined condition, comprising;

an electrically insulative base having an elongated shape;

a plurality of switch parts each including a pair of first and second reed pieces; said first reed piece being fixed and having a terminal part at one end thereof, protruding from an end part of said electrically insulative base, and a contact part at the other end of said first reed piece, and said second reed piece having a flexible reed part at one end thereof, opposing said contact part of the first reed piece via a gap;

a cover provided on said electrically insulative base and covering said first and second reed pieces of each of said switch parts; and

a connecting member of an electrically conductive non-magnetic material via which said plurality of switch parts are serially connected, wherein;

without external magnetic fields being applied, said first and second reed pieces of each pair are in an open state, and

said switch operates only under a condition where all of said plurality of switch parts are operated by external magnetic fields individually and simultaneously acting on said plurality of switch parts.

2. (Original) The switch as claimed in claim 1, wherein said plurality of switch parts includes pole pieces provided on said reed pieces, said pole pieces determining positions where magnetic flux enters and leaves said reed pieces.

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Cancelled)

6. (Cancelled)

7. (Cancelled)

8. (Currently Amended) A switch operable under a predetermined condition comprising:

a first and a second switch parts, each said switch part including a pair of first and second reed pieces, said first reed piece being fixed and having a terminal part at one end thereof, protruding from an end part of said electrically insulative base, and a contact part at the other end of said first reed piece, and said second reed piece having a flexible reed part at one end thereof, opposing said contact part of the first reed piece via a gap;

a cover provided on said electrically insulative base and covering said first and second reed pieces of each of said switch parts; and

a connecting member of an electrically conductive non-magnetic material via which said first and second switch parts are serially connected; and

terminal members provided at both ends of said switch, wherein:
without external magnetic fields being applied, said first and second reed pieces of each pair are in an open state,

said switch operates only under a condition where said first and second switch parts are operated by predetermined external magnetic fields individually and simultaneously acting on each of said first and second switch parts, and

wherein said connecting member and said terminal members have different thicknesses and are embedded in a mold base main body, base parts of said reed pieces being attached to said connecting member and said terminal members.

9. (Withdrawn) The switch as claimed in claim 8, wherein said connecting member and said terminal members are made from different parts with different thicknesses that are parts of a plate member that is insert-molded in said mold base main body.

10. (Currently Amended) A switch operable under a predetermined condition comprising:

an electrically insulative base having an elongated shape;

a first and a second switch part, each said switch part including a pair of first and second reed pieces, said first reed piece being fixed and having a terminal part at one end

thereof, protruding from an end part of said electrically insulative base, and a contact part at the other end of said first reed piece, and said second reed piece having a flexible reed part at one end thereof, opposing said contact part of the first reed piece via a gap;

a cover provided on said electrically insulative base and covering said first and second reed pieces of each of said switch parts; and

a connecting member of an electrically conductive non-magnetic material via which said first and second switch parts are serially connected; and

terminal members provided at both ends of said switch, wherein:

without external magnetic fields being applied, said first and second reed pieces of each pair are in an open state,

said switch operates only under a condition where said first and second switch parts are operated by predetermined external magnetic fields individually and simultaneously acting on each of said first and second switch parts, and

said switch further comprising- comprises a switch assembly including said first and second switch parts and a cover that covers the switch assembly having said first and second switch parts, said cover having a top plate part of a predetermined thickness.

11. (Original) The switch as claimed in claim 10, wherein said first and second switch parts are offset in a direction perpendicular to a longitudinal direction of said first and second switch parts.

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Currently Amended) An external magnetic field generating assembly for applying a magnetic field to each of a plurality of switch parts of a switch in which first and second switch parts each including a pair of first and second reed pieces are serially connected via a connecting member made of an electrically conductive non-magnetic material, said switch comprising an electrically insulative base having an elongated shape, said first reed piece being fixed and having a terminal part at one end thereof, protruding from an end part of said electrically insulative base, and a contact part at the other end of said first reed piece, and said second reed piece having a flexible reed part at one end thereof, opposing said contact part of the first reed piece via a gap, a cover provided on said electrically insulative base and covering said first and second reed pieces of each of said switch parts, wherein without external magnetic fields being applied, said first and second reed pieces of each pair are in an open state, and said external magnetic field generating assembly comprising:

a first magnet generating a magnetic field applied to said first switch part; and

a second magnet generating a magnetic field applied to said second switch part, wherein orientations of magnetic poles of said first and second magnets are aligned in a direction perpendicular to a longitudinal direction of said reed pieces.

14. (Cancelled)

15. (Cancelled)

16. (Currently Amended) A combination, comprising:

a switch operable under a predetermined condition, said switch including an electrically insulative base having an elongated shape and a plurality of reed switch parts each including a pair of first and second reed pieces, said first reed piece being fixed and having a terminal part at one end thereof, protruding from an end part of said electrically insulative base, and a contact part at the other end of said first reed piece, and said second reed piece having a flexible reed part at one end thereof, opposing said contact part of the first reed piece via a gap, a cover provided on said electrically insulative base and covering said first and second reed pieces of each of said switch parts, and at least one connecting member of an electrically conductive non-magnetic material via which said plurality of reed switch parts are serially connected;, wherein without external magnetic fields being applied, said first and second reed pieces of each pair are in an open state; and

an external magnetic field generating assembly generating magnetic fields meeting said predetermined conditions for operating said switch.

17. (Cancelled)

18. (Cancelled)

19. (Cancelled)

20. (Cancelled)

21. (Cancelled)

22. (Cancelled)

23. (Cancelled)

24. (Cancelled)

25. (Cancelled)

26. (Cancelled)

27. (Currently Amended) A switch having an electrically insulative base of an elongated shape and comprising at least one switch part each including first and second reed pieces, said first reed piece being fixed and having a terminal part at one end thereof, protruding from an end part of said electrically insulative base, and a contact part at the other end of said first reed piece, and said second reed piece having a flexible reed part at one end thereof, opposing said contact part of the first reed piece via a gap and a cover provided on said electrically insulative base and covering said first and second reed pieces of each of said switch parts, wherein:

said switch part operates by an external magnetic field acting thereon,
without external magnetic fields being applied, said first and second reed pieces of each pair are in an open state, and
wherein said switch part operates only under a condition where said external magnetic field is a specific magnetic field.